

Vacancy Announcement

Announcement #	438-09127	Position	Health Technician (Surgical)		
PayPlan	GS	Series	0640		
TargetGrade	6	Target PD		Pay Range	\$34,300 - \$44,589
Dev Grade	5	Dev PD		Dev Pay Range	\$30,772 - \$40,005
1st Dev Grade		1st Dev PD		1st Dev Pay Range	
Opens	07/23/09	Closes	08/06/09	Openings	1
Tour of Duty, etc	Full Time				
Special Comments	The procedures outlined in AFGE Master Agreement, Article 22, Section 8 will be followed. First consideration will be given to current Sioux Falls VAMC employees.				
Service	Surgical/Specialty Care SL				
Section					
Area/Consideration	VA Employees, Veterans, Status Eligibles				
Duty Site	Sioux Falls, SD				
Major Duties	<p>Incumbent works with minimal supervision under the circulating RNs and the Operating Room Nurse Manager and under the general direction of the surgeon. Incumbent is a member of the surgical team in the operating room performing scrub and support services for surgical procedures. Incumbent will be required to work flexible day tours with rotating on-call schedule, including weekends and holidays. Incumbent will perform a variety of surgical technician duties: Incumbent will transport patients to surgery; prepare room for designated surgical procedure; test equipment to be used to ascertain equipment is in working order; assist with positioning patient on surgical table and sterile draping; set up table, instruments and supplies maintaining aseptic techniques; able to recognize signals from surgeon and provide appropriate instruments; ensure availability of all supplies; performs sponge, needle and instrument count as required. Incumbent will perform surgical skin preps as required. Incumbent observes and reports abnormal skin condition and any physical or emotional factors that might interfere with the patient's preparation for surgery. Incumbent observes and calls attention to potentially dangerous situations that would break the sterile field; participates with other nursing staff in maintaining optimum environment for surgery. Incumbent reports deficiencies in equipment or supplies. Incumbent will utilize principles of body mechanics in patient lifting; equipment handling and patient care activities. Incumbent should possess knowledge of basic anatomy, physiology, surgical instrumentation, medical and surgical terminology and infection control procedures. Incumbent will have day-to-day contact with patients, visitors, co-workers, physicians and fellow employees. The physical demands require long periods of standing, frequently in uncomfortable or stressful positions when assisting with surgical procedures. Considerable manual dexterity is required for passing instruments during surgery. Incumbent is subject to being called back for emergency surgery. The work is performed in the operating room with regular and recurring potential for exposure to radiation, toxic substances and anesthetic gases. Incumbent may be required to assist or provide coverage in minor surgery clinic.</p>				
Time In Grade					

Qualifications

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must have demonstrated that they have a sufficient level of knowledge, skills and/or abilities listed in Duties and Responsibilities and must possess the required competence to be rated eligible for consideration.

GS-6: One year specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-5 level.

GS-5: Applicant must possess one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level or four (4) years of education above the high school level.

The applicant selected at the lower grade level will be promoted to the next higher grade level without further merit promotion procedures provided legal and regulatory requirements are met and upon recommendation of the supervisor.

Specialized Experience: Experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAO's) to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level. Applicants who have the 1 year of appropriate specialized experience, as indicated are not required by this standard to have general experience, education above the high school level, or any additional specialized experience to meet the minimum qualification requirements.

Time-in-grade (TIG) restrictions now remain in effect through at least 8/15/09 [a Saturday]. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has extended the effective date when it may or may not eliminate TIG restrictions from its regulations, to no sooner than 8/16/09 [a Sunday].

The complete OPM Qualifications Standard Handbook defining the specialized experience as well as the provisions to substitute education for experience is available for review in the Human Resources Management Service.

Rating Factors

KSAO #1: Ability to communicate orally and efficiently with the members of the surgical team and other patient care areas (i.e., x-ray, lab, patient floors).

KSAO #2: Knowledge of universal precautions of all infection control policies and procedures when handling specimens, supplies, and equipment.

KSAO #3: Ability to anticipate the needs of the surgeon during surgical procedures to respond in an emergency and / or life threatening situation.

KSAO#4: Knowledge of operations and function of all surgical instruments and equipment including testing procedures to assure all equipment is in good working condition.

Application Process Applicants must submit an application package consisting of:

- OF 612, "Optional Application for Federal Employment" and/or resume
- OF 306, "Declaration for Federal Employment"
- Copy of latest performance evaluation
- Copy of most recent SF 50, Notification of Personnel Action
- Rating Factor (KSA) narrative. Failure to provide this information will deem the applicant ineligible for consideration for the position
- If a veteran: Veterans Preference eligible's, including VRA 30% disabled, must submit a copy of ALL DD-214's and a SF-15 (if 10 point preference is claimed) with current (dated within the last 12 months) proof of a service-connected disability.
- References: Provide name, address, phone and relationship for three to four references

These forms may be obtained through the Human Resources Office or from www.siuuxfalls.va.gov.

Application packages are to be submitted to and received in the VA Medical Center, Human Resources Office, 2501 W. 22nd St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105 not later than 08/06/2009.

For additional information contact Patricia Hinzman, (605) 333-6852 or Patricia.Hinzman@va.gov.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Position is subject to a pre-employment physical examination. Employment will be contingent upon the results of any required physical.

DRUG TESTING: All applicant(s) tentatively selected for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) employment in a Testing Designated Position (TDP) are subject to urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicant(s) who refuse to be tested will be denied employment with VA.

VET PRO CREDENTIALING: Individuals selected for positions that have patient care responsibilities are subject to undergoing an electronic credentialing process called VetPro. As part of this process, it will be necessary for you to submit complete information concerning your professional education, training, experience, licensure and certifications using VetPro. The candidate selected will be provided with further information on how to use VetPro.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT: Applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, religion, partisan political affiliation, national origin, age, physical or mental handicap. This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and/or hiring process, please notify the agency. A decision for granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

SECURITY: Appointments in the Federal Government are subject to a criminal background investigation.

CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT: Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) has been established for new civilian employees and employees competitively selected for promotions and reassignments. Employees meeting this definition must enroll in DD/EFT or request a waiver of enrollment. Information will be provided when the job offer is made and during in processing.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and/or hiring process, please notify the agency. A decision for granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.